Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following sentence to the beginning of the specification: "This application claims

priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/224,597, filed August 11, 2000, the

contents of which are incorporated herein by reference."

On page 6, lines 9-10, please amend the sentence as follows: "The attenuation characteristic of

the echo shaping filter H when its updates are controlled by the MG2 algorithm is shown in

Figure 4."

On page 9, line 8, please add the following sentence: "Figure 5 shows details of an adaptive

controlled filter arrangement of an echo canceling system according to one embodiment of the

present invention."

On page 9, line 10, please amend the sentence as follows: "Representative embodiments of the

present invention include an improved echo control system of the type shown in Figure 2, in

which control the time varying control factor $\alpha(k)$ in the adaptive NLMS algorithm of the

background filter H_1 is controlled so that both the ERLE achieved by the echo canceller EC and

the low level local speech and noise contributions are explicitly taken into account."

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 3 to start as follows: "Figure 5 shows

details of an adaptive controlled filter arrangement of an echo canceling system according to one

embodiment of the present invention. The adaptive control block shown in Fig. 5 ~~One specific~~

~~embodiment~~ calculates the control factor $\alpha(k)$ as:"

Please replace the Abstract with following: "An improved echo control system has an adaptive

controlled echo canceling filter arrangement in which a background filter updates the filter

coefficients of an echo shaping filter responsive to a normalized least mean square (NLMS)

algorithm. An adaptive control module determines a weighted reference signal for the

background filter in which the weight is proportional to a far signal reference and an estimate of

the norm of an echo canceller error vector, and inversely proportional to en estimate of a residue

of the echo canceller. And a non-linear normalized convergence term is used in the NLMS

algorithm."